

What's Goin' On

Around Town

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS

Fall 2015

Volume 12 - Quarter 3



BENSALEM

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OCTOBER 3, 2015

RAIN DATE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015



fall festival

celebrating community pride



Thank you for taking the time to read this Edition of our quarterly Bensalem Township Newsletter. Please feel free to share with your family and friends. Remember to follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook, especially the TD Bank Amphitheater Page! Bensalem Council and I would like to thank the advertisers in the following pages, as this newsletter is provided four times per year at no cost to our residents!

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LAWN CUTTING 101: HOW TO CUT YOUR GRASS

Knowing how to cut your lawn is just one of those little things that we take for granted. But if you are a first time homeowner and have never had a lawn to cut, then you need to know these lawn cutting basics. Follow this plan and you'll get good results. And please remember, the Township has an Ordinance prohibiting grass and weeds to grow over 12 inches high.

- **Cutting your grass** can be much tougher than it looks. You need a definite plan to deal with tricky aspects such as navigating rough terrain and achieving desired blade length. These are general guidelines for cutting your grass that you should be aware of. Of course, every yard is different and each has its own set of rules.

- **Blade Height.** Set the blade height on your push or pull lawn mower to the middle setting. Cutting the grass too low results in scorched soil in the sun. Cutting it too long encourages difficult cutting the next time.

- **Cut in Rows.** The safest pattern for you to cut your lawn as a rookie is straight lines along one of the sides. This will

keep your rows even and ensure that you cut all of the blades without missing spots.

- **Circle the Beds.** When you reach a bed in the middle of your lawn, cut a row or two around the circumference of the bed. This will make sure that you get all of the blades around a difficult section of the grass.

- **Check the Bag Often.** One thing that can ruin your lawn is to let the catching bag get too full. Then clumps of grass begin falling into freshly cut rows which can cause the grass that the clumps fall on to die.

- **Cut Often.** Cutting your lawn often is the best way to encourage it to grow lush and full. Cutting too often is simply a waste of effort and materials. Once every week or so should be plenty for most climates.

Following these simple cutting guidelines will get you on your way to earning lawn of the month in your neighborhood.



SEE YOU NEXT SUMMER!



The Bensalem Township Parks and Recreation Department summer camps have come to an end! It's our sincere hope that all who participated in this year's programs had a wonderful experience and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and guardians for entrusting your children to our care. Our staff had a fabulous time with your children and we truly look forward to next season.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

As we begin preparations for 2016 we would like to hear from you regarding the possibility of adding a 2 week camp at the end of our regular season. This camp would begin the week of August 8th and conclude August 18th. Parents would be required to provide transportation to and from camp during this extension. The location would be the Bensalem Community Park Monday through Thursday. This would be a limited enrollment camp separate from any other camps offered. The idea for this camp is to continue to service our residents who need additional activities for their children.

The Parks and Recreation Department look forward to your feedback. Please let us know your interest by completing the question at the bottom and return this form to the Parks and Recreation Department located at 2400 Byberry Road as soon as possible. You can either mail your response or bring it to our office. This will assist us in determining if there is a need or interest in additional program servicing during our regular camp season.

Again, we thank you our community residents for your participation in our summer programs and truly do look forward to all returning next season.

Name: _____ Number of children who would participate? _____

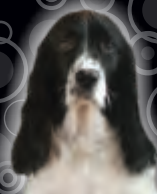
Judy Loftus

**Graphic Design
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To Make A
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What's Goin' On **AROUND BENSLEM!**



**Bensalem Township School District
Student of the Month**



**Bensalem Rotary
Officer of the Year
Officer Timothy Henehan**



**Mayor with students from
Saint Charles School**



Lions Club

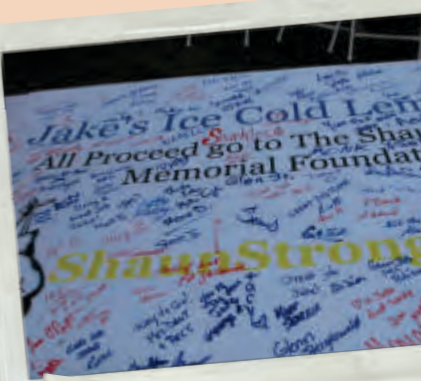


Annual Lower Bucks County E-Conference



**Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo Scholarship
Foundation Recipients Rachel Bolinski,
Chancery DeBonaventura, Matthew Gladu,
Elizabeth Gougler, Emily Hancin
Ashley Ponticelli, Tessa Redding**

What's Goin' On AROUND BENSALEM!



**Bensalem Lions Club 2015
Jacob Pratt Golf Outing.**
(pictured here in order is Dawn Davis,
Jacob Pratt and Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo)



Mayor DiGirolamo pictured with Thailand
Ambassador, Ronnie Lu, Taipei Economic
& Cultural Deputy Director along with
Senator Robert "Tommy" Tomlinson and
Dan Bates of the Lower Bucks County
Chamber of Commerce.



Pets Plus Grand Opening



**Kiwanis install new sign for
Imagination Land Playground!**

COP CARD PROGRAM

The Bensalem Township Police Department will once again be participating in a Cop Card Program kicking off October 3rd at the Bensalem Fall Festival. This program provides an opportunity for our police officers to interact with the community they serve particularly with children. Children will be encouraged to collect the various cards from officers when they are out in the community. The cards will resemble baseball cards with the officer's photo on the front and a short biography on the back. It is anticipated there will be 90 different cards for the children to collect. The program also includes a contest with prizes for children who successfully collect the entire set. The contest will run for one year and each child who collects the entire set will be put in for random drawings at the 2016 Fall Festival. The prizes will include a variety of electronics. For our officer's and your child's safety please have your children refrain from approaching an officer during traffic stops or active incidents.



POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION PROGRAM

The Bensalem Township Police Department is in the process of attaining accredited status through the international accrediting organization, The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA).

As previously reported the Department has already attained accredited status through the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) on November 12th, 2014.

Accreditation is a progressive way of helping departments evaluate and improve their overall performance. The basis of this approach lies in the dissemination of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Some of the benefits a department obtains through Accreditation include:

- CALEA Accreditation requires an agency to develop a comprehensive, well thought out, uniform set of *written directives*. This is one of the most successful methods for reaching administrative and operational goals, while also providing direction to personnel.
- CALEA Accreditation standards provide the necessary reports and analyses a CEO needs to make fact-based, informed *management decisions*.
- CALEA Accreditation requires a *preparedness program*

be put in place—so an agency is ready to address natural or man-made unusual occurrences.

- CALEA Accreditation is a means for developing or improving upon an agency's *relationship with the community*.

- CALEA Accreditation strengthens an agency's *accountability*, both within the agency and the community, through a continuum of standards that clearly define authority, performance, and responsibilities.

- Being CALEA Accredited can limit an agency's *liability and risk exposure* because it demonstrates that internationally recognized standards for law enforcement have been met, as verified by a team of independent outside CALEA-trained assessors.

- CALEA Accreditation facilitates an agency's pursuit of *professional excellence*.

CALEA is the premier accrediting organization for Law Enforcement and the Police Department is taking this next step to further raise the professional status of your Police Department.



BENSALEM POLICE K-9 SALUTE OUR VETERANS



The Bensalem Police Department's K-9 Unit recently conducted a demonstration at the Delaware Valley Veteran's Home in Philadelphia. The purpose of the demonstration was to interact with veterans and show them our appreciation for their service. All the veterans in attendance enjoyed speaking to Sergeant McGinty and Corporal Schum and seeing what their police dogs do on a daily basis. Approximately 50 members of the Delaware Valley Veteran's home attended the event.



BENSALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT'S PAL PROGRAM



The Bensalem Police Department has taken PAL (Police Athletic League) to the next level in 2015. Bensalem Police continued their successful PAL basketball program this summer and had 240 kids participate in the league. PAL was also expanded to include a flag football tournament in August where 50 kids participated with members of the police department. Kids from PAL were also given the opportunity to attend this year's Eagles training camp with members of the police department. PAL is also looking to possibly expand in the fall to include other sports. Anyone requesting information about PAL should e-mail Sergeant James Donnelly at jdonnelly@bensalempa.gov.



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SCHOOL SCRIPT PROGRAM



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Bensalem Township Police Officers respond to theft from vehicles almost on a daily basis. The majority of these thefts occur from vehicles that are left unlocked. Please ensure that your vehicles are locked and valuables are removed from plain sight. **Don't become a victim, Lock Your Doors, Protect What's Yours!** If you have information relating to criminal activity, please contact Detective Sergeants, John Gladu or Keith Christie at 215-633-3719 or leave an anonymous tip at 215-633-3660.



October 4 - 10 is National Fire Prevention Week, this year's theme is **"Hear the BEEP where you SLEEP, EVERY BEDROOM NEEDS A WORKING SMOKE ALARM"**. In conjunction with the national campaign, Bensalem Fire Rescue visits local grade schools, daycares and civic events during the entire month of October to promote and educate children and their families on the importance of fire safety.

Bensalem Township Fire Rescue's **SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM** provides free battery operated (ten year) smoke alarms to single-family homes located within the township. If you're a township resident and in need of a smoke alarm contact BTFR at 215-633-3617 to schedule an appointment.

Bensalem Township Fire Rescue is a proud participant of the 6ABC - Operation Six Save a Life Smoke Alarm Campaign.



Brian Gunn



Brian Tomes



Bud & Barb Silcox



Paul Stout



Diane Thomas



Jim Byrd



Stephanie Feldman



Randy Stephens



Pat Luszczyk



Anthony Aspromonte



Tara D'Aulerio



KELLERWILLIAMS®

We would like to invite the public to come and meet our new office on October 3rd, at the **Bensalem Fall Festival**. Please swing by our booth and register to win a free 60" Flat Screen TV. Feel free to have us answer any real estate questions you may have during this fun-filled festival. We will have free prizes & information for the general public.

You are always welcome to call or stop in our office anytime for a more confidential meeting. As always we look forward to serving you and our continued success together.

Market update for Residential activity in Bucks County (Single-family and Condo)

The multiple listing service (MLS) Trend reports that the inventory of homes for sale has increased by 2.3% during June, and has increased by 4.3% in the last 12 months. Despite the higher inventory, the 11.5% increase in sales has taken the Months Supply of Inventory from 7.3 months last June to 7.2 months this year. Sales in June 2015 were 10% higher than in June 2014, and are now 11.5% higher year-to-date than in 2014.

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BENSALEM ROTARY PERSON OF THE YEAR

Rotary Club of Bensalem, starting its 75th year of service, recognized Dr. John Kerner, Rotary Club of Bensalem's Person of the year. The recognition took place at our club's annual changeover dinner.

Congratulations to a long time exceptional community volunteer. One of the two initial continuing members of our Youth Aid Panels (offers a community based approach to divert first time juvenile offenders away from juvenile court intervention). He is approaching 30 years of service volunteering as one of the original three chairpersons.

John has also been part of the Liberty USO team that travels to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst to provide meals for off going troops and over the years cooked Afghanistan and Iraq veteran's first meal after returning onto USA soil. He served as a Lower Southampton Fire Company member for 18 years, was their president for two, member of Falls Twp Que for the Troops Fundraiser for 5 years, served on Bensalem's recycling Board and was on Bensalem's committee to welcome home our troops and veterans. John when accepting his recognition, was modest expressing that he was only part of team of dedicated volunteers who together make a difference. As those who know John he was rightfully 100% correct to pass accolades onto his wife Laura, who is right with John at many of his volunteer endeavors. Our club is proud to recognize him for his stellar service.

If interested in contributing to the Liberty USO, you may do so by contacting the president and COO of USO of PA, and South Jersey, Joseph Brooks at president@libertyuso.org.

Like us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/BensalemRotary.



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Deadline To Advertise
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October 28, 2015

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2ND ANNUAL CULTURAL DIVERSITY CELEBRATION



Building a Better Bensalem Together (B3T) and the Diversity Club of Shafer Middle School are very excited to invite the community to a Celebration of Cultural Diversity on Tuesday, October 27th from 7 to 9 pm in the Shafer cafeteria, 3333 Hulmeville Road.

The event will feature displays of artifacts and crafts, food sampling, music, dance demonstrations and information on many of the cultures that make Bensalem a diverse and wonderful place to live. Students from B3T's Youth Advisory Committee and Shafer's Diversity Club will be on hand as ambassadors and members of the B3T Board of Directors along with Shafer Faculty and Home and School Association.

Families are welcome to join in the festivities by attending, and everyone is encouraged to consider participating by representing an ethnic background and setting up a display.

Last year, representatives of twelve countries participated. This year, we are hoping to double that number!

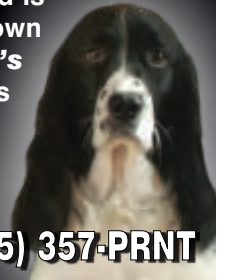
For more information or a participant application, please contact B3T Youth Projects Coordinator Dr. Melinda Gordan at mpgordan@gmail.com or B3T Youth Committee Chair/Shafer Diversity Advisor Ms. Yolanda Robinson at yrobinson@bensalemsd.org.



Oh Yes!
IT'S
FREE

This publication does not cost **YOU** the taxpayer any money and is funded by the advertisers and the What's Goin' On Around Town Newsletter. If you would like to continue being informed as to **What's Goin' On Around Town** we ask that you please support the businesses who advertise in it.

This is a non-political newsletter and its purpose is to keep **YOU** the community residents informed as to **What's Goin' On Around Town**.

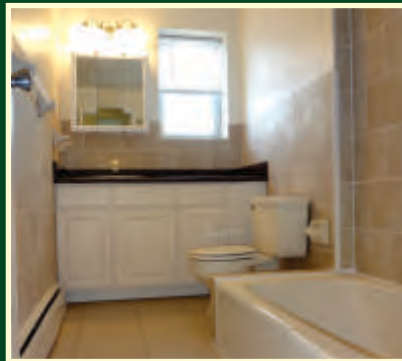


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B3T YOUTH

Building a Better Bensalem Together's Youth Advisory Committee, B3TKIDS, is already off to a great start and looking forward to its best year ever! The group is comprised of youth in grades 7 through 12 who are Bensalem residents. Currently there are 60 members, with the number growing.

B3TKIDS meets once a month in various settings to work on projects that promote B3T's mission of motivating and organizing the community by providing resources and building skills to reduce substance abuse and other adolescent problem behaviors, using proven programs and strategies.

In June, B3TKIDS hosted a well attended introductory luncheon in conjunction with a parent program presented by Jewish Family Services. The meeting was an outdoor picnic at the township's Red Roof Pavilions, during which the youth planned and created a Buddhist Wishing Tree on Hulmeville Road. The tree contains messages of hope, encouragement, acceptance and positive lifestyle choices.

In August, B3TKIDS had a "working lunch" at the TD Bank Amphitheater to begin work on their upcoming Youth Connections Coalition Magazine. The magazine will feature writing and drawings by Bensalem youth, articles for parents and youth about current adolescent issues and information and resources for youth, parents and the community. September's activities involved being Student Ambassadors at Back-to-School Nights, holding lunch time meetings and planning for Red Ribbon Week throughout the Township.

Upcoming events will include the Bensalem Fall Festival, Prescription Drug Take-Back, Red Ribbon Week, Leadership Training, Canned Food Drive, a bowling party, Breakfast with Santa and other activities.

It is a very exciting and challenging time to be a teenager! Participation in youth activities provides some of the protective factors needed to help kids feel supported and empowered to follow their dreams. Membership in B3TKIDS is free and open to any Bensalem middle or high schooler who has an interest in working to help make our township a great place to live, learn and play.

For more information on how to get involved with B3TKIDS, contact B3T Youth Programs Coordinator Dr. Melinda Gordan at mpgordan@gmail.com or B3T Youth Group Chair Ms. Yolanda Robinson at yrobinson@bensalemsd.org.



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WE LOVED WEDNESDAYS AT THE TDBA AND SO DID THOUSANDS THIS YEAR!

As we closed the books on our 2015 summer concert season, we look back and say... "What a Ride"... But don't take our word for it, check out our website and see the great feedback we received all season from the fans! (www.tdbankamphitheater.com)

The TD Bank Amphitheater was voted the Best of 2015 in two categories; the best entertainment venue in Bucks County as well as the best summer event in Bucks County! This is an achievement we are quite proud to proclaim. This was a result of a voting campaign conducted by the Bucks County Courier Times. Look for our advertisement in the Sunday, September 20th edition of the paper.

We had a record year in the sale of our "Season Pass". The 2016 Season Pass will be available December 7, 2015 at the same price of \$35 for the 2016 season of 12 concerts. Such a deal and a great stocking stuffer or the perfect gift for a TDBA fan!



SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD MARKS BENSALEM'S ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL "CELEBRATE COMMUNITY PRIDE"

Dear Friends,

Bensalem prepares for its signature event, which celebrates over 300 years of our great community! The festival prides itself in the diverse activities available to our residents and guests. This great day is filled with fun, family oriented activities, amusements, dancing, food, all day entertainment and a phenomenal evening concert, followed by outrageous fireworks by Zambelli International.

All of your favorites are back including the Kountry K-9 Dog Show, Gamin Ride, Anywhere Miniature Golf, The Cool Beans Band, Smoking Hot Magician, Michael Bonacci, Eagles, Flyers and Phillies Sport Celebrities...and so much more! Gates open at 11:00 A.M. to free admission. Parking is also free and is located at the Bensalem Township High School located on Hulmeville Road. There is absolutely no parking at the venue. Shuttle buses are available at no cost, at ten minute loops to take you to and from the festival beginning at 10:45 A.M. until the fireworks display ends at approximately 9:15 P.M.

The evening concert is "The McCartney Years" which is a Paul McCartney & Wings tribute performing the historical 1973 tour. This tribute show is one of the best in the country and we have them here in town to perform for you on Saturday night!



THE MCCARTNEY YEARS

The Premiere Paul McCartney Concert Experience.

There are many Beatles tributes. But there's only one show that celebrates the genius of Paul McCartney at the height of his career in the mid-1970s. And this is it!

Praised by the late Beatles promoter Sid Bernstein - the man who brought the original Beatles to North America - as 'the best on the scene today', The McCartney Years is a note-for-note faithful recreation of a mid-1970s Paul McCartney concert.

Led by perfectionist Yuri Pool as Sir Paul, the band has a commitment to 100% live and accurate reproductions of McCartney's concert experience. The show is period-true, technically stunning and sonically explosive. Every note is live and played true to its original arrangement. It has set the standard for all who might follow in this significant body of work. And, it's a blast to watch and listen to!

Whether he plays an original Beatles-era Höfner bass or sports the same wardrobe from the 'Wings over America' mid-1970s tour, Yuri is true to Sir Paul in his musicianship, vocal stylings and presentation. And the band doesn't miss a beat delivering a texture that will transport you back to the first time you heard these great songs on vinyl. TMY players include David Usselman (guitars and bass); Braden DeCooman (guitars); Hubert Orlowski (keyboards and synth); Laura Gagnon (percussion and keyboards); Dean McKey (drums) and of course Yuri on bass, lead vocals, piano and guitar.

Experience three decades of 'The Beatles' and 'Wings' live - with the world's premier McCartney concert experience. Rewind into the 60s and 70s to dance, sing and relive your passion for McCartney with a band that has opened for Mariah Carey, performs sold-out shows across Canada, the U.S.A. and Europe and been featured on CNN.



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BENSALEM TOWNSHIP STREET LIGHTING UPGRADE EVALUATION PROJECT

Bensalem Township currently owns and operates over 3,300 streetlights on streets within the Township boundaries. During the summer and fall months you may see construction crews in your neighborhood converting existing streetlights to light-emitting diode (LED) technology.

The Township is installing these new streetlights for evaluation as they are more cost-effective, sustainable, and provide better quality light than traditional high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights.

This Evaluation Phase consists of 75 fixture replacements in a range of streets positioned in close proximity to the Bensalem Township Building. Observation and feedback from the initial evaluation will determine the full or partial conversion of the remaining streetlight inventory.

SAVINGS - LED'S use less energy resulting in up to 40-80% savings for the township on energy bills.

SAFETY - LED's provide truer, more uniform lighting, improved nighttime visibility, and the elimination of many dark areas between poles.

AESTHETICS - LED's reduce direct and reflected up light which are the primary causes of urban sky glow (dark-sky friendly)

EFFICIENCY - LED's last 4 X longer than traditional HPS lights, resulting in fewer outages and repair trips resulting in 50-75% in maintenance savings.

SUSTAINABILITY - LED components are recyclable.

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1 of 50 Best Places to Live in the Country
MONEY MAGAZINE



I am honored yet humbled by Money Magazine's recognition of Bensalem Township as "1 of 50 Best Places to live in the Country". Bensalem Council and I attribute this accolade to the teamwork of my entire administration always striving towards the greater good for our community. Bensalem Township was ranked 46 of the 50. Personally speaking, Bensalem has and always will be #1 in my heart & soul.

Mayor Joseph D. Gagliardi



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Contact Karen Reeve at 215-822-2812 x304,
k.reeve@habitatbucks.org,
or see www.habitatbucks.org/a-brush-with-kindness.

BEFORE



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Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County: 31 Oak Avenue, Chalfont, PA 18914 215-822-2812; www.habitatbucks.org/.

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Where: Cornwells Fire House Maltese Room (2049 Bristol Pike
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No outside food or drink and no under 21 permitted

To purchase tickets contact any Lions member or Jeanine Price:

215-633-3700 ext. 3764

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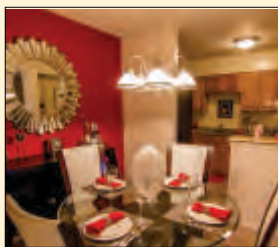
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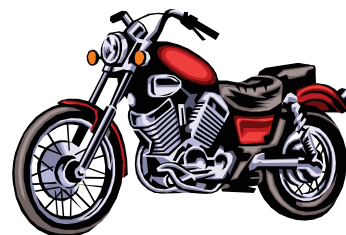


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